

Annex G Recognised HE courses

1. HEFCE is currently responsible for funding only some HE qualifications in FECs. These qualifications are defined as 'recognised' in this document. Only students studying on recognised HE courses should be included in the HEIFES11 student population (see paragraphs 2 to 4 of Annex F). This annex contains further information on what can be classed as a recognised HE course.

2. Within HEIFES11, recognised HE courses are those where, on successful completion, the student is awarded by a relevant recognised body, one of the following qualifications:

- higher degree, including PhD, MPhil, MSc, MA, MBA
- postgraduate diploma
- PGCE
- first degree, including foundation degree, BSc, BA, BEd
- foundation degree bridging course, where these are integrated into the final year(s) of a first degree
- HND
- DipHE
- HNC
- DTLLS
- CertEd.

3. Relevant recognised bodies are:

- any UK HEI with the power to award degrees
- for foundation degrees (but not for foundation degree bridging courses), any FEC in England with the power to award such degrees
- for HNDs and HNCs, Pearson Education Ltd (formerly Edexcel) and the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

4. The Data Service's Learning Aims Reference Application (LARA), at <https://gateway.imservices.org.uk/sites/lara/Pages/Welcome.aspx>, returns the awarding body and qualification type for a particular learner aim. If colleges believe that a qualification has been incorrectly classified in the LARA, they should e-mail heifes@hefce.ac.uk as soon as possible (ideally as soon as the course has been added to the LARA) providing us with the learning aim reference, learning aim title, awarding body and learning aim type as displayed on the LARA and the suggested amendments. We shall then liaise with the Data Service on the college's behalf.

5. Professional or similar qualifications will not normally be recognised. For example, a Certificate in Management awarded by the Institute of Management is not a recognised HE qualification for the purposes of HEIFES. However, if these courses also meet the definition given in paragraph 2 of this annex, they will be recognised.
6. Foundation years and other provision commonly referred to as 'Level 0', will be classed as part of a 'recognised HE course' only if they are an integrated part of a recognised HE qualification, such that:
 - a. Students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution, and
 - b. Progression to the recognised HE qualification is guaranteed, subject to satisfactory completion of the foundation year.
7. Free-standing foundation years and other free-standing Level 0 provision are not recognised HE courses. The requirement that students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution means that where teaching of the foundation year is undertaken by a different institution, this will be treated as integrated – and therefore within the HEIFES population – only if it is done under a franchise arrangement from the institution offering the recognised HE qualification.